Rev. A. C. Baldwin

Jan 31, 1844

New Haven Jan 31st 1844

D.r Bro. Phelps

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Presuming on your fraternal Kindness, I wish to make of you a few enquiries, confidentially. I see by the papers that brother Towne has left his charge in Salem St. Have they any one in view as his successor? If not, I would ask one question further; do you think that is a field in which I could be useful were I in it? And one further still; is there any probability that I could be introduced there were I "available"? "Why do you make these enquiries?" I hear you ask. I answer, that the pecuniary, & other internal affairs of ~~that~~ My Society are such, that ~~it is~~ I think I should be justified in leaving my present charge should Providence ~~so direct~~ open another field. I would remark however, that the "internal affairs" of my Society of which I speak, do not relate to myself, & the subject of my dismission has never been agitated by any one to my knowledge. Never I do not wish to have it said that I am ~~expected~~ about to relinquish my charge here, for it is not true, unless I should be called away. I will explain "viva voce", should I live to see you, to what I allude.

I am not altogether unknown to the members of Salem St Ch. as I preached for them two or three Sabbaths after they called Mr Towne, & before his acceptance, & I was informed by Brother Winslow, & also by some members of ~~that~~ Subject to church, that they were expecting to make out a call for me should Mr Townes answer be in the negative. Whether they would have done so or not I cannot say. Will you be so kind as to con-

fer with Dea Hall of your Church on the subject of this communication (without mentioning to him or to any one else that I have written this letter of inquiry) or any other persons you may see fit & write me as soon as convenient.
I suppose I might spend a Sabbath in Boston almost any time if it is desirable—
Hoping that God will direct in this matter I remain as ever
Yours affectionately
A. C. Baldwin